



European and Eurasian Programs Branch
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

For the Record contains reviews of events of the following exchange programs: the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program (Muskie), Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD), Internet Access and Training Program (IATP), Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP), Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Program, and the U.S.-Russia Experts Forum (Forum).

MUSKIE



JFDP



Program Events

Junior Faculty Development Program Final Workshop



JFDP participants at the final workshop
in D.C. in May, 2006

On May 22-24, the 2006 [Junior Faculty Development Program \(JFDP\)](#) fellows gathered in Washington, D.C. for a final program workshop in order to reunite with colleagues, reflect on their fellowship activities, and develop strategies for applying their experiences upon returning home. During the two-day event, fellows participated in sessions pertaining to higher education projects, alumni activities, grant seeking, and reverse culture shock. Fellows also had the opportunity to present their action plans that were the result of a semester long project to identify and analyze the most critical higher education issues within their countries.

U.S.-Russia Experts Forum Closing Workshop

The second inaugural group of [U.S.-Russia Experts Forum \(Forum\)](#) participants met in Washington, D.C. on June 26-27 for their Closing Workshop. The participants spent the previous ten weeks conducting policy research on issues related to economics and rule of law. Each U.S.-Russia research team presented their initial research and policy papers to the entire group in order to prepare for the final conference in Moscow in December. By presenting their work to the group, the teams had the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers so that they can refine their research products before the final workshop. The workshop concluded with a dinner reception at the Embassy of the Russian Federation where Forum participants met with representatives from the U.S. Department of State, the Russian Embassy and local think tanks.



Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Program End-of-Program Workshop

[Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Program](#) participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia arrived in Washington D.C. on July 16, to take part in a three-day end-of-program workshop. During the workshop, the students discussed their program experiences with representatives from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and country desk officers at the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. The participants also enjoyed a casual dinner reception at the home of Thomas Haran, Branch Chief of the European and Eurasian Programs Division of the Office of Academic Exchange Programs, in honor of their successful completion of the program. The end-of-program workshop gave the students the opportunity to reflect back on their accomplishments in the U.S., to plan for their future, to discuss issues of importance to them, and to establish a strong alumni network with other Undergraduate Program participants.



Participants and guests
at the Department of State

FOR THE RECORD is a web-based electronic newsletter that focuses on recent academic exchange and alumni highlights and is published by the Office of Academic Exchange Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

ECA conducts a variety of exchange programs with Europe and Eurasia. These academic exchange programs provide various opportunities for university study as well as research at doctoral levels. The programs are authorized through the Fulbright-Hays Act.

The [Office of Academic Exchange Programs, European and Eurasian Programs Branch](#), gratefully acknowledges the reports for this newsletter supplied by [American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS](#) and the [International Research & Exchanges Board \(IREX\)](#).

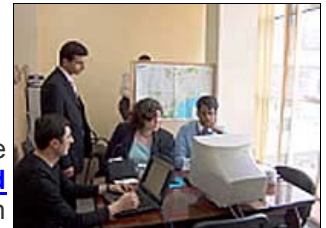
2004-2006 [Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program \(Muskie\)](#) participants from Eurasia gathered for the Commencement Seminar on June 1-2 at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD before returning to their home countries. This event provided the fellows with an opportunity to meet and network with their colleagues from the program, to share their exchange experience, and to plan for their involvement as program alumni. The participants also attended the Muskie Policy Forums lead by experts in their fields of study. The forum discussions, ranging from strategic importance of Eurasia, to health initiatives and gender issues in the region, provided the fellows with valuable insights prior to their return home. The highlight of the event was the keynote address at the graduation lunch delivered by two fellows selected as "Muskie-of-the-Year": Sarvat Maharramov from Azerbaijan (Public Administration, Indiana University) and Shoghik Hovannisyan from Armenia (Economics, Duke University).

Highlights of Current Participants



Azeri Citizens Use Internet Access and Training Program Access Sites to Discuss Democracy and Human Rights with US Embassy Official Online

On April 25, more than forty Azeris participated in an online forum with Paul Narain, the Political Economics Officer at the US Embassy to Azerbaijan, utilizing [Internet Access and Training Program \(IATP\)](#) access sites throughout the country. During the online discussion conducted in English, Narain answered questions related to democratization and human rights. As a result of online discussions like this organized by IATP, many Eurasian citizens learn about US policy and about the importance of human rights, freedom, and democracy to the United States.



Participants in the online forum

MUSKIE Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program Participant Gains New Perspective on Public Health Policy

Levan Metreveli, a 2005-2007 [Muskie](#) fellow in Public Health at Emory University, is also a Member of Parliament in Georgia. When he returns to Georgia, Mr. Metreveli will be active in the development of a health financing model in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, as well as a health legislation transition, with an emphasis on new public health law. "My Muskie fellowship at Emory appeared to be absolutely essential for me. My view of public health has radically changed. I believe that the knowledge and experience I gained through the Muskie fellowship can easily be applied at different levels both nationally and internationally."



Muskie fellows Yekaterina Tairyan and Levan Metreveli



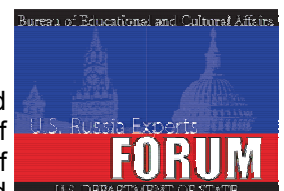
WIU students at the Islamic Center of Macomb

Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program Participant Promotes Mutual Understanding Among Students

Behruz Himo, a [Muskie](#) fellow from Russia studying economics at Western Illinois University (WIU), partnered with the Muslim Students Association (MSA) of WIU to organize an event at the Islamic Center of Macomb for interested professors and their classes. Mr. Himo was inspired by the mutual understanding built up through the conversational partners program he had participated in and wanted to use this event to promote further understanding. The event was a success as more than one-hundred-twenty students had the opportunity to visit the mosque, meet their Muslim peers and have a friendly discussion about Islam.

U.S.-Russia Experts Forum Participants' Work Published

Recently, [U.S.-Russia Experts Forum \(Forum\)](#) participant, Dr. Alexander Livshin, collaborated with Dr. Richard Weitz to publish an article on Russian philanthropy in the May 2006 issue of *International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)*. The article explores the complexity of relationships between Russian philanthropy and Russia's government, civil society, and developing NGO sector. Click [here](#) to read the article.



[U.S.-Russia Experts Forum \(Forum\)](#) participant, Victor Mizin, published an article on May 22, 2006 in *The Baltimore Sun*. Co-authored by Charles D. Ferguson, the article was entitled *Russia Can Help Resolve Iran Crises*. In the article, Mizin and Ferguson look into the best ways to deal with Iran's nuclear program, specifically exploring the special role Russia can play in discussions with Iran.



During the spring 2006, [Junior Faculty Development Program \(JFDP\)](#) fellows supplemented their academic experiences with a new JFDP component - community service. Fellows found a wide variety of ways to take part in volunteer service projects in their host communities or at their universities. From shelters and kitchens for the homeless to public schools and museums, the fellows learned about America outside of the classroom during these memorable encounters.

Selected volunteer service projects of 2006 JFDP fellows:

Julijana Cicovic, from Montenegro (Psychology) and Nilufar Begibayeva from Uzbekistan (Linguistics), both hosted by Louisiana State University, assisted with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Julijana said, "In refugee camps I had opportunity to learn more about the experience of the people who were traumatized by Katrina and to compare it with the experience of the people in my country who were traumatized with the war and who had refugee's experience, too."

Lali Pertenave, from Georgia (George Washington University, Arts Management), volunteered for International Arts and Artists, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. She said of the experience, "I gained insight on non-profit organization management as well as gallery opening operations in USA. I am going to arrange an exhibition and offer 'First Friday Openings' idea to galleries in Tbilisi, Georgia."

Aleksandra Nojkovic, from Serbia (New York University, Economics), volunteered for the Parent Action Committee (PAC) in Bronx, New York, an organization dedicated to the improvement of public education in this area of New York and to issues affecting Muslim children. Aleksandra assisted with group parent counseling meetings, as well as tutored and played with the children. Aleksandra said: "I chose working in Bronx, because I think that PAC is an organization that deals with very important issues. And another motive is my personal strong belief that every child deserves an excellent education and the right to a safe and healthy school environment."

Rahmatulla "Roma" Igamberdiev, from Kyrgyzstan (Michigan State University, Environmental Science), volunteered for two water management projects in East Lansing, Michigan. Roma reported, "I worked with water quality modeling for the last five years and always knew how much human activity influences it. Here, for the first time in my life, I was able to explain the importance of watershed management and storm water management by combining theory and practice. I liked interacting with citizens, students and faculties face to face, hearing their opinion and sharing my knowledge regarding water quality issues."

Yulia Tegay, from Uzbekistan (University of Wyoming, American Studies/History), volunteered at the Laramie Plains Museum in Wyoming, translating the museum visitor guide materials into Russian and helping with inventory. Yulia notes, "Doing volunteer work at the Laramie Plains Museum, I learned more about the history of Laramie and the Ivins family which contributed a lot in the development of the city. I was in touch with the real and original things of the 19th century. That was really fascinating!"



Yulia at the Laramie

Highlights of Alumni



Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program Alumni Use Social Marketing to Stop Smoking Among Youth in Georgia

A group of Georgian alumni from the 2004 and 2005 [Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program \(UGRAD\)](#) implemented their skills gained in a course on social marketing to launch an anti-smoking campaign targeting youth. Using tools that combine education and elements of advertising, the group led educational presentations and initiated public awareness campaigns focusing on at-risk teenagers. They began by evaluating the students' knowledge on smoking and then presented statistical information on the impact of smoking and second-hand smoke. Afterwards, students took part in a poster-making contest for anti-smoking ads and posted them around the city.



Students in Tbilisi learning about the ill effects of second hand smoke from UGRAD alumni

On May 4, Professor Lyumyla Filipova (RSEP 00) conducted a seminar entitled "Educational Internet Resources" at the [Internet Access and Training Program \(IATP\)](#) site in Kharkiv, Ukraine. The seminar concluded a training series to equip local educators with computer and Internet skills in order to increase their effectiveness at work. The series provided information on the basics of computer use, operating systems, managing files and folders, and using different software, as well as creating documents, editing text, working with tables, saving data, searching the Internet, and using email. The seminar focused on Internet resources for educators, such as online libraries and websites containing methodological materials and tests, especially the website of the Ministry of Education of Ukraine. The new skills and knowledge gained by local educators will reduce the time spent on paperwork and contribute to creating more interesting lessons for students.



Valentina Otchirova illustrates a point to JFDP alumni colleagues

Junior Faculty Development Program Workshop: Personalizing the Interpersonal

JFDP

Twenty [Junior Faculty Development Program \(JFDP\)](#) alumni from Northwestern Russia and Moscow convened outside of St. Petersburg in Zelenogorsk on April 22-23 for an intensive two-day training workshop. Alumna, Valentina Otchirova (JFDP 2001), a training consultant for commercial and non-commercial organizations, led the workshop. The goal of the workshop was to create a training program that would help JFDP alumni continue their professional development and enable them to bring concrete skills back to their departments. According to Ms. Otchirova, basic understanding of psychology in their work can assist university instructors foster the individual talent of each student, improve motivation and creativity, make the educational process more dynamic, and help build teams. During the workshop, she engaged the alumni in several interactive activities designed to explain personality types, in order to facilitate communication with students. Seminar participants appreciated the practical applications of this seminar and the interactive way in which it was taught.

Highlights of Project Smile and Alumni Small Grants

Project Smile is a grant program for ECA alumni to work on public service events in their community to make children smile. Alumni also have the opportunity to apply for Small Grants to design programs to benefit their communities. Click [here](#) for more information.

Meri Poghosyan, an alumna of the Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD 03) from Armenia, received a grant to complete a Project Smile activity designed to help blind and sighted children discover the world of their blind/seeing counterparts and learn to better appreciate one another. Fifteen sighted and fifteen blind students were brought together for a day with fifteen trained volunteers. Activities included exercises to discover commonalities, games, art projects and singing, and culminated in a discussion of universal children's rights.

Anna Logvinenkova, an alumna of the Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD 04) from Russia, received a grant for her Project Smile activity, "Express Your Dream!" She worked with four schools to identify thirty-six disadvantaged students to participate in the project. The students and their teachers were brought together for a day of games, songs, and an opportunity for each student to create a work of art with oil paints, appliqué or plasticine, expressing a great dream. The students then presented their dreams to the group, inspiring each other with ideas from having a computer to going to the seaside or flying to the moon.

Alla Kuvatova, an alumna of the Regional Scholar Exchange Program (RSEP 94) from Tajikistan, completed her ECA Alumni Small Grant project to promote gender studies at Tajik universities. She developed an instructor's manual for teachers, "Teaching Gender Studies," a workbook for students, and a curriculum plan. Kuyatova presented her materials to the Chemistry Faculty at Tajik State National University and a Tajik NGO, "Elite," both of which have agreed to collaborate with her to implement the curricula.

Andriy Maksymovych, an alumnus of the Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD 04) from Ukraine, organized a "Run for Children" marathon with an ECA Alumni Small Grant. Maksymovych started his run on April 11th in Luhansk oblast and ran from east to west, covering more than 35 Ukrainian cities. Over sixty people joined Maksymovych for the last leg of the marathon, which ended at the Shevchenko monument in downtown Lviv.